* 825 to the belief that the spider stings with the rear of the body) may cause death in 2-3 hours. It may [753] also kill chicks and one of the informants, Jose Juan Moreno, claimed to have been paralized by the sting of the Black Widow for eight days . . . . [158] However, Juan is a good hypochondriac, and even when not apt to exaggerate, he may have suffered a genuine trauma owing to an encounter with this spider. While smaller spiders are not considered too dangerous, the *Tarantula* is. It can both bite with its jaws and sting with the rear end of the [753] body and it is said to be more dangerous to children—it may cause their death at times. The adults will weather its attack but will become quite ill. [752] As remedy for its bite, a plant *quivira* is used as a hot extract taken in a small glass for 2-3 days.

Almost all of the animals closely related to the Arachnoids, the scorpion, the Sun spider, *Scolopendra* and the tick, are also venomous in the Seri view. Of these, the scorpion is most feared, and in adults it will cause illness lasting up to a week while to very small children it may be fatal. As a proof the informants mentioned a six months old [165] girl recently stung by a scorpion who died in less than six hours—the fact confirmed by the Mexicans in the village. Remedy for this is similar to [762] others—a plant called *amxzuháy* is drank with hot water for three days, a glass per day.

The Sun spider, also armed supposedly with a sting at its rear, is said to be fatal to horses for whom there is no remedy. This is a pure fiction. [177] but the belief is common among the Mexicans and the Seris certainly took it up from them. But no one suggested that the Sun spiders are in any way harmful to men although they are avoided, just in case.

The *Scolopendra* is considered very dangerous, much like a viper. It bites badly but is not fatal. Actually, the story probably concerns another species, for *Scolopendra malkini* has only recently been described and is rare in Desemboque.

The tick's unpleasant traits had already been discussed under another heading. All that is essential to add is a belief that in addition to other ex- [753] ploits it can enter a person's ear causing much pain and that for this reason it is particularly bad for the children, as there is no remedy.

There remain three more species of various degree of toxicity. Of these, the *Triatoma* is most conspicuous both for its effects and factual observation. This blood sucker bites with its mouth parts [753] and introduces illness called by the Seri *syexhis. ?e . kemep* which may end fatally. People of all sexes and ages are subject to it equally, and the illness may last three months, and there is no

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